IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.

: 10/718,484 .

Confirmation No.: 8434

Applicants:

: Dirk L. Basting et al.

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Faxed to Technology Center 2600 at (703) 872-9314

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents

P. O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Introductory Comments . .

Sir:

The above-identified patent application is amended prior to examination as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.

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